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Hank Hancock

A HISTORY
OF



ARKANSAS RAZORBACKS

By HANK HANCOCK '26

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PREFACE

One of the most famous symbols in today's intercollegiate sports is the hard-charging, ferocious Razorback "hawg" of the University of Arkansas, Fayetteville. Equally famous is the "hawg call" of Razorback fans - - "Whooo-ooooo-Pigs! Sooooo-ie!"

Fittingly enough, both symbol and call developed out of legends known throughout the Ozark hills in which the University is located. There are numerous versions of these legends. Nobody can say for sure which is correct. This detracts not one whit from the fact that both symbol and call hold very special spots in the hearts of Razorback fans all over the world.

The author of this booklet has been acquainted with Razorback symbols and "hawg calls" since the football season of 1921, and in fact is proud to have been the artist who created the first "Running Razorback" during his student days at the University.

He is telling this story, and making this booklet available, on the suggestion of his wife, Babe and of several fellow members of the UA Class of '26. Among the classmates are Jim and Bernice Phillips, Charles Morrow Wilson, Ben Coonfield, Helen Mason, Lorraine Apple, and Otho Bennett.

This booklet is dedicated to all the Razorbacks who have graced the halls of this great University.

- - Hank Hancock
1976

HOW THE RAZORBACK RAN

The Spanish explorer, Hernando de Soto, traditionally gets credit for bringing the first hogs westward across the Mississippi River, in 1541. The animals were among the livestock that provided food for his soldiers. Legend says that some of the hogs escaped into the wilderness, turned wild, and necessarily became just as mean and full of fight as the bears, panthers, bobcats, and other critters living there under the jungle law of "survival of the fittest."

By the time the great westward migration of the early 1800's brought settlers by the thousands into the Ozarks region, wild swine were said to be plentiful. They were hunted on foot and on horseback, with guns and dogs, for meat. Boars weighing up to 300 pounds, with tusks 10 inches long, are a part of the frontier legend. Sows, too, especially those with pigs, were respected for their bad tempers and fighting abilities.

Many tall tales grew up around these animals. One described the wild hog's spine as covered with bristles as sharp as a razor. Thus, the name "razorback" is believed to have become associated with the descendants of DeSoto's hogs.

There was no fat on the wild razorback. In fact, he was sometimes described as being so skinny he could hide in a stove pipe.

Every legend about the razorback, however, agrees on one point. He was cunning, courageous, ill tempered, and always spoiling for a fight.

Eventually the pioneer settlers in the hills to raising their own herds of domesticated hogs. The animals were permitted to run loose in the woods to find their own food. The call used to round them up, with variations, was "Whooo-ooooo, Pig! Sooooie!"

Now let's come on into the Twentieth Cen-



tury, to the early years of intercollegiate football at the University of Arkansas, and to the story of a coach named Hugo Bezdek, for that's when adoption of the name Razorbacks for University teams occurred.

Bezdek was a native of Bohemia who migrated to the United States with his parents during his boyhood. He played football at the University of Chicago under the immortal A.A. Stagg, and was Stagg's student assistant. Bezdek graduated in 1907 and coached football that fall at Oregon. On coming to the University of Arkansas in the fall of 1908 to coach, he found the team's name to be Cardinals.

Bezdek quickly established himself as a "driver", and as an innovator. For example, he taught his quarterback, Steve Creekmore, to call signals so rapidly that the ball was hardly touched down before the team ran another play. Bezdek is credited with early experiments in use of the forward pass. Whether he was satisfied to have his team called the Cardinals isn't clear, but in any event he initiated a change under circumstances that now are legendary.

The favorite story of Arkansas fans is that Bezdek commented, after a great game at Little Rock, that his players had "fought like a herd of razorbacks." Possibly this was after the 34-0 victory over Washington University (St. Louis) in the 1909 season. During that season, by the way, Arkansas was undefeated for the first time in its football history.

Another story was told by Phil Huntley, now deceased, who played for Bezdek in 1908, '10, and '11. Huntley's version was that the team was on a trip into Texas, and stopped off somewhere, probably Dallas, for a walk around. Somebody yelled, "here come the razorbacks," and Bezdek heard it.

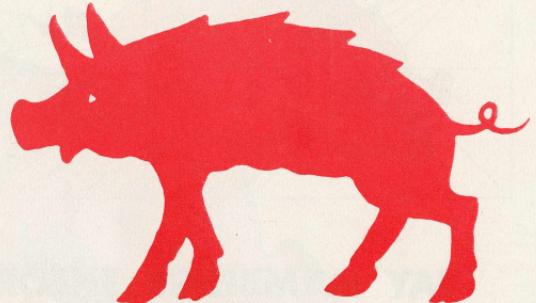
Take your pick of the stories, Bezdek is credited with changing the name of the Cardinals to the Razorbacks and there has never been a move to change it again. With razorbacks as the school's "animal," it was entirely logical that "calling the hawks" would become a part of the tradition, too, hence "Whooo-oooooo, Pigs! Soooie!" Nowadays the last word in the call, yelled with tremendous force, is "Razor-backs!"



By the time I came to the University in 1921, Bezdek had departed and G. W. McLaren was coach. Razorbacks had become firmly established as the team's name. I knew nothing about University sports at the time, but had played a high school football game against an excellent team from Fort Smith in the fall of 1920, my high school McAlester was fortunate to win 19-0. The Fort Smith captain was Herman Boozman, who later (1926) was captain of the Arkansas Razorbacks and noted as one of the greatest Razorback players of all time.

At this time, Lock Morton, Elza Renfro, myself, and my sister Marguerite were the only students of Indian extraction at the University. We were from the Choctaw nation. Later Claude Coon and my youngest sister, Lucille, entered the University. Lock lettered on the 1923 team, and so did Elza.

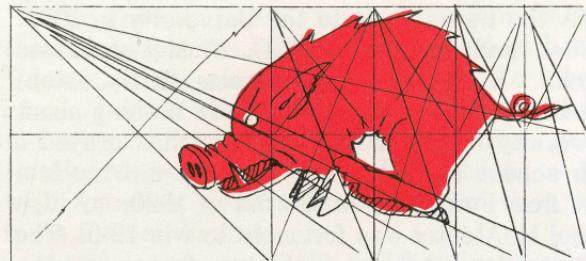
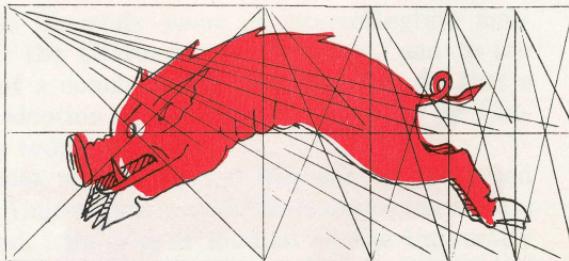
I played freshman football that first fall, but was entirely out of my class insofar as future varsity play was concerned. So, I concentrated on baseball and lettered two years in that sport. This was during the era when such Arkansawyers



as Sid Benton (St. Louis Cardinals), Roy Wood (Cleveland Indians), Leland Robertson, Jim Warram, and Jack East, were known in baseball.

While in high school in Oklahoma, I had illustrated our yearbook with my own style of cartoons and thought I was pretty good. During my first week at the University, I made some snide remarks about the quality of the drawings I had seen of the Razorback hog. Some upperclassmen





JAY HAMBIDGE THEORY OF DYNAMIC SYMMETRY

heard my remarks. Leland Robertson, "Brick" Lowry, Norman Downing, and "Crip" Hall decided that I would draw a better one before they'd permit me to go to bed that night. Freshmen in those days were subject to unofficial but nonetheless effective "supervision" of upperclassmen. Somehow or other, I pleased them, with a

"standing" Razorback. As illustrated in this booklet. "Crip" Hall, as oldtimers recall, is credited with originating the annual Homecoming observance on the Fayetteville campus. As secretary of state of Arkansas longer than anyone else in history, he was a great supporter of University athletics, football in particular.





The drawing I made for "Crip" and the others was used for several years by the Price Clothing Company, Tony's, the Rootin' Rubes (girls pep squad), and the Arkansas freshman basketball team. Also, I drew the Razorback on numer-

ous yellow raincoats which were a rage among students at that time. The Arkansas Booster Club, men's pep group, adopted the symbol and wore it -- in white -- on the backs of their red flannel shirts.

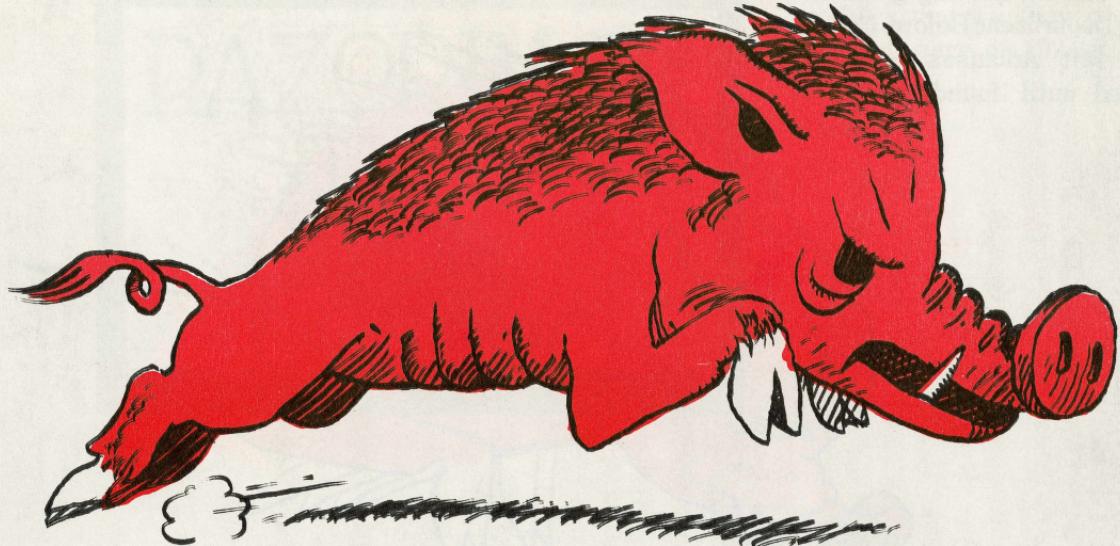




Sometime in 1923 or '24, my art teacher, Miss Elizabeth Galbraith, taught a special art class for several of us. Her teaching was based on the work of an artist in New York, where she did

some summer work. The artist, J. Hambidge has developed what he called the Theory of Dynamic Symmetry. It was built on squares and rectangles, with horizontal, vertical, and diagonal lines.





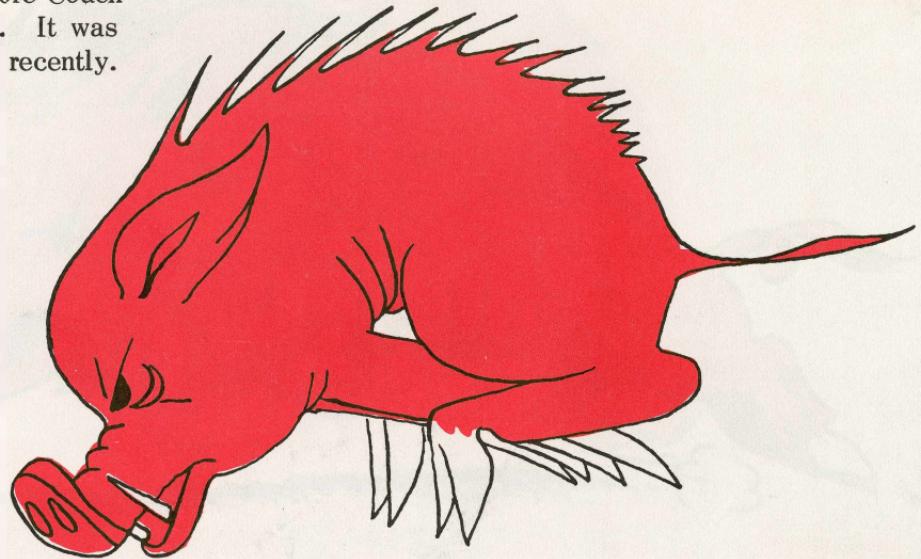
This method was used to make movements of animals and humans appear real and more active in drawings.

I used this same method to change my stand-

ing Razorback to a running Razorback. During 1923-24 I did many drawings, trying to make the Razorback run as I thought he should. Some of these drawings are in this booklet, including the



Copy of outline drawing given to
Athletic Department Before Coach
Schmidt left Arkansas. It was
misplaced until found recently.



one on Page 9 which is the one I drew especially
for the 1924 yearbook, The Razorback. I was
editor of that book and the drawing is the first,

so far as I know, ever to be published to show
the University's symbol in "full speed ahead"
action.





Copy of first printed running Razorback that we know of. Found on staff page of 1924 Razorback annual.

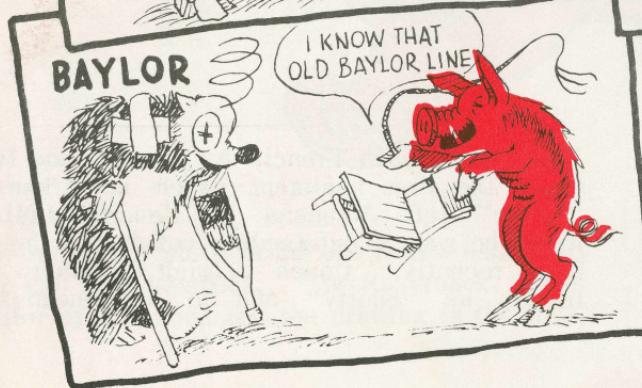
On the staff of the 1924 yearbook was a fellow artist, "Chet" Lauck, who later became world famous as "Lum" of the radio team of "Lum and Abner." Many of Chet's drawings were used in that yearbook.

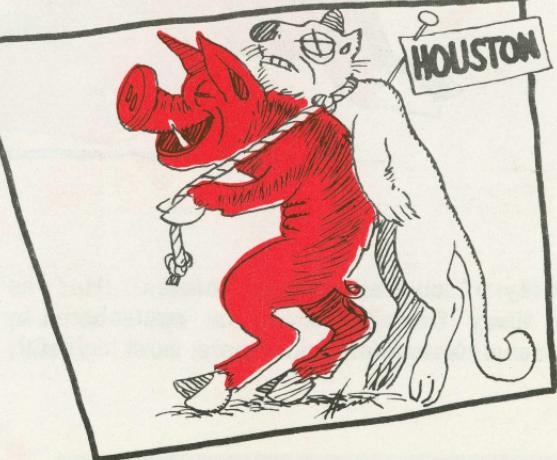
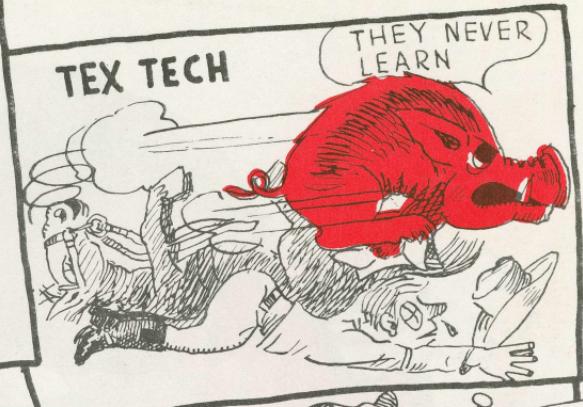
To the University campus in the autumn of

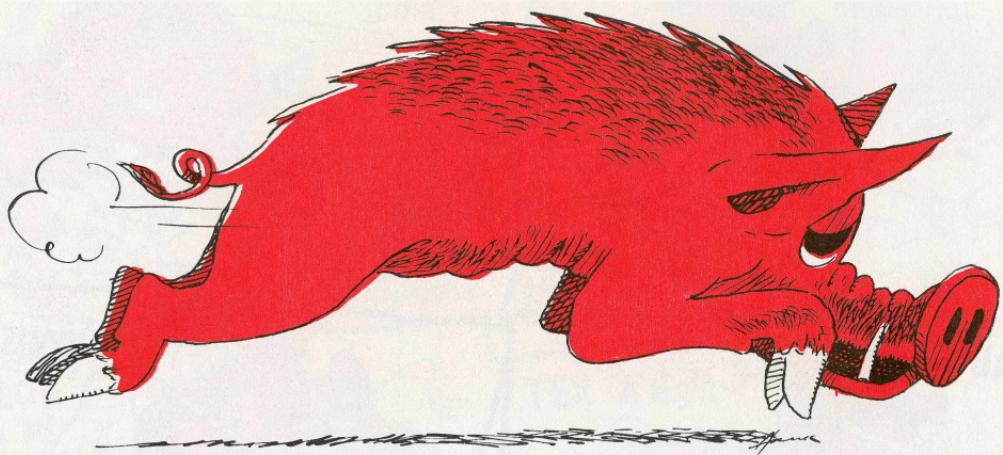
1922 came Coach Francis A. Schmidt, and Ivan Grove the first assistant coach at Arkansas. "Grove" left Arkansas for Hendrick College where he was an outstanding coach until he retired recently. Coach Schmidt, known to his friends as "Smitty" and to his enemies by



RAZORBACK COMPETITION







a variety of uncomplimentary names. He was hired away from Tulsa and is remembered by older fans as one of Arkansas's most colorful,

eccentric, and successful coaches. He originated the slogan, "Arkansas Never Quits," about which more later.

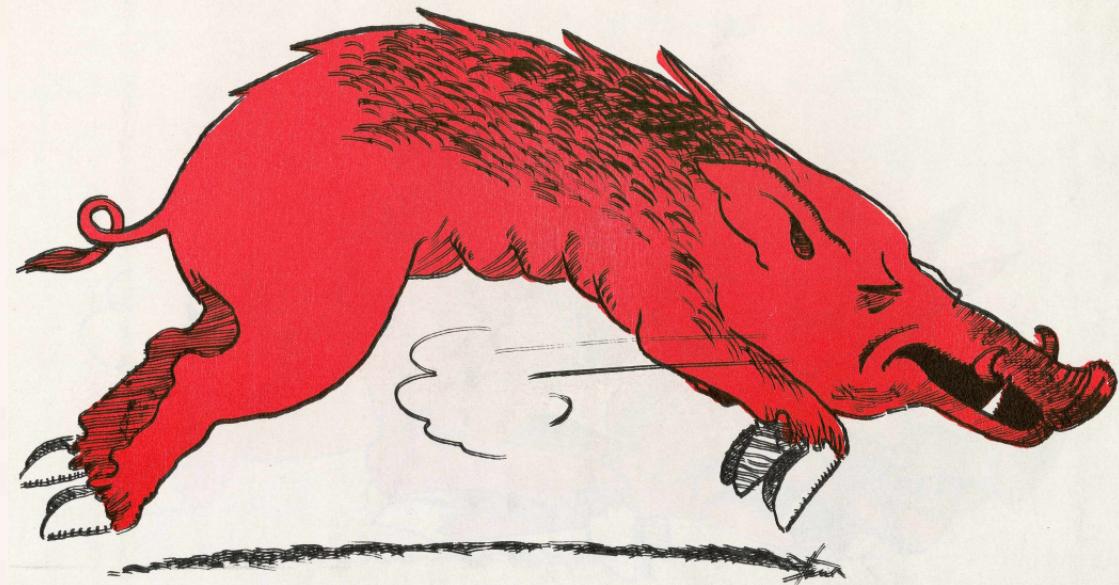




After my graduation in 1926, I worked for an engraving company in Fort Worth. I hit on an idea for a running Razorback that might be of use

to Coach Schmidt, and so drew the one that appear on Page 8. For reasons I don't know, "Smitty" laid my drawing aside and it was lost.

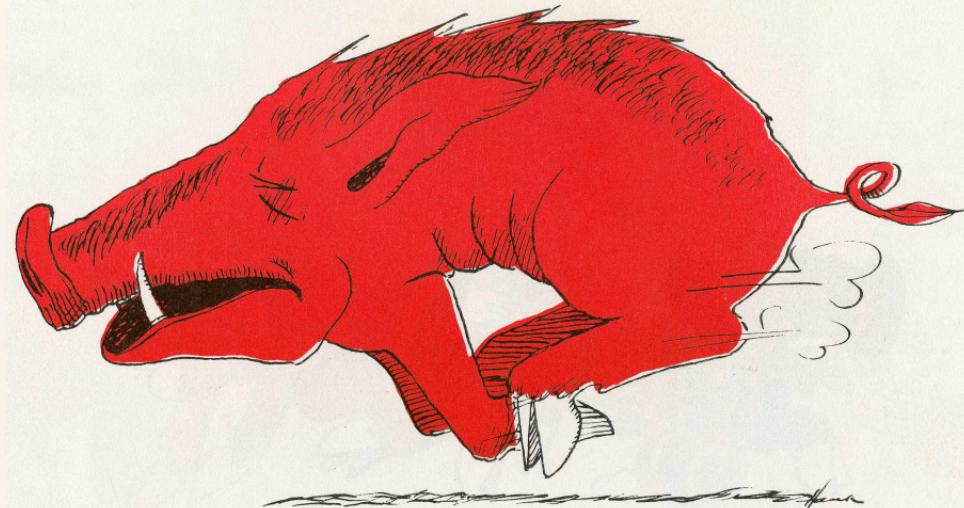




He left Arkansas for Texas Christian University in 1928. In succeeding years, many running Razorbacks were produced by various artists, some similar in many ways to mine but some quite different and ferocious in appearance.

In more recent times, as the 50th anniversary of my graduation approached, I searched through my files of drawings made back there in the 1920's and found several original sketches. I had prints made of the one I had sent Coach





Schmidt, and which I considered my best. Copies of drawing were presented to Pres. David W. Mullins of the University, to John Rosso, executive director of the University Alumni Association, and to Coach George Cole, athletic di-

rector emeritus of the University, and one of the all-time great Razorback football players. I presented copies of this print to a number of my classmates, and placed other copies on sale in the University Book Store, sales of which go in-





to the 1926 class fund.

So much interest was shown in the story of the "running" Razorback that I decided to publish this booklet so everyone can know the story.

Friends and acquaintances who know of my

long association with the University of Arkansas and its symbol often ask if there really is such a thing as an Arkansas razorback hog. For that matter, some wonder whether there ever was such a critter.





I have to say, with regret, that the true wild razorback has long since disappeared from the hills, except in a few places. Civilization has wiped him out. A real live razorback is carried

in a cage to games that the football team engages in. He is really a live "Hawg" of the University of Arkansas.

Tall tales are still told about him, however,





and his sterling qualities of courage and independence are much praised. As for the razor-back of the University, the traditions that have

grown up around it provide us all a lesson in sentiment and pride.



ARKANSAS NEVER QUITS

On a wet afternoon in Fayetteville -- November 18, 1922 -- the University of Arkansas Razorback football team took the field to play powerful Southern Methodist University, in the first annual "homecoming" game.

The SMU Mustangs had come up, by train, from Dallas as a 40-point favorite, tied with Baylor University for the Southwest Conference lead. The train also brought a big band, the Mustang pep squad, and numerous fans.

The Arkansas Razorbacks were in their first season under Coach Francis Schmidt and their season record was erratic. They had defeated Hendrix and Drury Colleges, had lost to Ouachita College, had suffered humiliation (60-13) by Baylor University, and by Rice (31-7), but had succeeded in beating Louisiana State by 40-6.

"Smitty" was understandably apprehensive because his team for the most part was inexperienced, and Homecoming had been built up to a pretty important occasion for alumni and University friends.

Coach Schmidt was a master psychologist and so he used some psychology in the contest. He ordered a long white banner, some 20 feet in length and five feet high, lettered in red: ARKANSAS NEVER QUITS, and had it installed directly behind one goal. I helped to install it. Just how much influence the banner and its slogan actually had in the game, nobody can say for certain, but the outcome surely points to considerable influence.

Arkansas had a limited number of players on its squad and made only a couple of substitutions as the contest progressed. SMU made many substitutions.

A pass, from Bill Fulbright to Homer Berry, broke the game open for Arkansas in the first quarter, after Yandell Rogers had run the ball into position. Then, in the second quarter and on a fourth down, Fulbright kicked a 35-yard field goal. Inspired by the nine-point lead, the Razorbacks held on tenaciously throughout the rest of



the afternoon and sent the Mustangs back to Texas in distress.

Bill Fulbright went on to become one of Arkansas's most famous sons -- Rhodes scholar, president of the University of Arkansas, long-time member of the United States Senate.

Other players on that first Homecoming Day included Bracey Haynie and Billy Amis at quarterback, Stanley Wood at fullback, Harry Hansard, Capt. C. T. Smith, Sam Coleman, and William McCullough. They played their hearts out in traditional Razorback fashion.

Before the game, the Arkansas Booster Club, men's cheering squad, had wagered their caps against Mexican sombreros worn by the SMU pep squad. Needless to say, we Arkansawyers had plenty of Mexican hats for several years.

We received information later that the SMU coach, Ray Morrison had installed a banner with the ARKANSAS NEVER QUILTS lettering, on his practice field the following spring. He wanted to make sure his players didn't forget the surprising game in Fayetteville.

Coach Schmidt continued coaching at Arkansas

through the 1928 season, compiling a record of 42 wins, 30 losses, and three ties. Although a conference championship in football eluded him, he developed champions in conference basketball in a gymnasium constructed of World War 1 surplus materials, long known as Schmidt's Barn.

The slogan, ARKANSAS NEVER QUILTS, lasted much longer than "Smitty," just as Hugo Bezdek's selection of an appropriate mascot did. The records over the years are dotted with victories that had all the makings of defeats, and would have been defeats had not the traditional Razorback spirit taken hold of the team.



COMMENTS

At this time we all know that Coach Broyles led his marauding Razorbacks to a tie for the Southwest Conference title with Texas and Texas A and M by defeating The Aggies at Little Rock on December 6, 1975.

A ruling by the conference designated the Razorbacks to represent the conference in the Cotton Bowl on January 1, 1976 against the University of Georgia. They proceeded to "string up" Georgia to the tune of 31-10. A grand way to begin the Bicentennial year.

I am most appreciative of the help given me by Ernie Deane who is presently a member of the Journalism faculty at the University of Arkansas. Without his help I doubt this booklet would have been printed.

Many thanks go to Charles Morrow Wilson a renown author and a wonderful friend and classmate at Arkansas University. He gave selfishly of his time to review in detail the complete manuscript and gave valuable suggestions that helped in the preparation of the booklet.

Also thanks go to Babe for her support and confidence as well as all the work assembling the manuscript.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Doy L. (Hank) Hancock left the University of Arkansas in 1926, after graduation. His first job was as a commercial artist with the Southwestern Engraving Company, Fort Worth, Texas. His major work was illustrating college and high school yearbooks for schools under contract to Southwestern.

While in Fort Worth he met and married his wife "Babe." He moved to the Lithograph Arts art department, which moved to Dallas about 1936. In 1940, Uncle Sam called to active duty all reserve officers of all branches. Hank was a lieutenant, having been commissioned in the reserves upon completion of Reserve Officers Training Corps work at the University during his student years.

His tour of duty lasted until 1953, when he and his wife and two daughters returned from Japan. He went into the art department of Chance Vought Aircraft Company at Grand Prairie, Texas. Two years later he changed to Lytle Corporation, of Albuquerque, N.M., still doing illustrations for aircraft advertising.

In 1966 he went to Biggs Field, El Paso, Texas, in Civil Service, illustrating text books for the Defense Language School. The school taught Vietnamese to American soldiers headed for Vietnam.

Now Hank and Babe have retired from both the Army and the Civil Service. They are living happily in Abilene, Texas. Both of their girls are married.

The Hancocks return to Fayetteville, Ark., and to the campus of the University occasionally to renew old acquaintances and to visit the sites Hank knew as a student before the Arkansas Razorback symbol became a running hawg.

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